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THE LAW APPLIED TO MOTOR VEHICLES. By Charles J. Babbitt. Second edition by Arthur W. Blakemore. Pp. cxxvi, 1262. Washington, D. C.: John Byrne & Co., 1917.

Mr. Blakemore, in the present edition of this work, has found it necessary to expand to a considerable degree the earlier edition by Mr. Babbitt, published in 1911, due to rapid development of this field of law during the past six years. Such subjects, for example, as "Jitneys" are of very recent origin, and yet of sufficient importance to warrant the rather extensive treatment which Mr. Blakemore gives to them. Moreover, decisions in regard to the "Law of the Road," "Pedestrians," and other branches of automobile law have multiplied so rapidly as to require the expansion of these subjects into entire chapters.

Realizing that the principles of law involved are not new, but only their application, the editor has with the utmost care compiled and classified the decisions relating to almost every conceivable situation which is likely to arise in the operation of a motor vehicle. It is in this particular that the work will especially commend itself to the practitioner, for here will be found collected cases on such modern conditions of fact as "failure to hold out hand upon coming to a stop," "driving with a rain-covered windshield," "effect of glare from approaching headlights," and such questions as "when one may speed up to avoid accidents," and the respective rights and duties of cars overtaking one another. In fact the whole field of automobile accident law is very thoroughly covered by the text and by numerous citations.

The editor has also treated very carefully the various subjects which are allied to motor vehicles. Thus there are chapters upon "Garages and Garage Keepers," "Chauffeurs and Operators," "Sales," "Selling Agents and Agencies," "Principal and Agent," "Insurance" and "Taxation."

There is also a full discussion of the law of evidence, the measure of damages, and an interesting chapter on "Gasoline."

If there be any criticism of the work, it would be in the too full discussion of some of the principles of law which are already thoroughly settled, but although this tendency materially increases the size of the work, it has the merit of making the book thoroughly complete in itself without reference to other works.

The editor devotes a chapter to the question of federal control, and is convinced that the federal government cannot, under the commerce clause, control the interstate travel of pleasure cars, though it can, of course, control the interstate travel of motor trucks carrying on an interstate business. The argument is not convincing, and we are inclined to think that under the Covington Bridge case and modern tendencies, the Supreme Court will interpret "commerce" to mean "intercourse," and will not attempt to say that if one drives a car across the state line purely for recreation, the federal government has no control, but if the driver goes on business, he may be controlled. Aside from the practical impossibility of determining the motive or purpose of the driver of the car, it does not seem necessary to limit the meaning of "commerce" to "*business* intercourse." The question,

however, is becoming less and less important as the states approach uniformity of legislation and mutual reciprocity.

In conclusion, it may be said that this later edition is a very complete and valuable work, and is by far the most thorough treatment of the subject which has yet appeared.

A TREATISE ON THE LAW OF CONVERSION. By Renzo D. Bowers. Pp. LX, 583. Boston: Little, Brown & Company, 1917.

There is place for an exhaustive and scientific treatise on the Law of Conversion. The title of Mr. Bowers's book and the reputation of its publishers give promise that it would fill this need.

Unfortunately, the book is not in any true sense a treatise. The exposition of general principle is cursory and superficial. There is no critical examination, no analytical exposition of the obscure places of the subject. Where there is a conflict of authority, the author rarely expresses any personal view, but contents himself with giving extracts from one or more judicial opinions on each side. In a word, the book is not a treatise, but a digest, or perhaps more accurately an expansion of such treatments of legal subjects as are found in the various legal encyclopedias. As such it has its place and usefulness. Its arrangement is purely external. Nearly half of the book is taken up with three subjects: "What May Be Converted," "Who May Be Guilty of Conversion," and "What Acts Amount to Conversions." Each subject is subdivided along purely external lines. For example, the chapter on "Who May Be Guilty of Conversion" has fourteen subheads, Principals, Agents, Officers, Pledges, Bailees, Executors and Administrators, Carriers of Goods, Mortgagor or Mortgagee, Corporations, Municipal Corporations, Partners, Co-Tenants, Purchasers for Unauthorized Vendees and Infants. The liability for almost every conceivable form of conversion of each class is fully stated, and then often restated in the chapters which specify the various chattels which may be converted and the various acts which amount to conversion. For instance the liability of a bailee, and more particularly an infant bailee, for using a chattel contrary to the terms of the bailment is stated in the three chapters without variation or difference in discussion. While this arrangement unduly expands the book, it may be of service to an attorney who, without much previous theoretical knowledge of the subject, wants to find the American decisions on some given situation in that, if he misses it in one chapter, he is almost sure to stumble on it in another.

In the effort to exhaust the subject, there is a mass of matter only indirectly related to the Law of Conversion. Rules of Evidence, which have no peculiar application to actions of trover are set forth at length, and over ten pages are devoted to a statement of the peculiarly limited liability of municipal corporations for torts in general, and a whole chapter is devoted to the right to waive conversion and sue in *indebitatus assumpsit*, a subject much more appropriately and scientifically discussed in several